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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Good Morning, America STATION WJLA TV
ABC Network
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SUBJECT An Interview with David Aaron

DAVID HARTMAN: Yesterday Secretary of State Cyrus Vance announced that the United States and Soviet Union have finally worked out the terms of an agreement that would limit the number of nuclear weapons that both sides can have. It's called SALT. SALT stands for Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty.

Now this agreement is very complex. It has to be ratified by the Senate before it can go into effect.

David Aaron is the Deputy Director of the National Security Council. We've asked him to join us this morning in Washington with our Steve Bell to talk about this new treaty.

Good morning, and welcome back, Mr. Aaron.

DAVID AARON: Thank you very much. Nice to be back.

HARTMAN: Thanks. First of all, as I understand the treaty, it allows both sides, Russia and the United States, to continue to maintain vast arsenals of weapons, nuclear and non-nuclear weapons; at the same time allows us to develop new missiles, warheads, planes, submarines. Now if that is true, what have we really accomplished? How have we reduced the possibility of a nuclear war?

AARON: The real problem is what's going to happen in the future. Without this agreement, we estimate that the Soviet Union would have approximately 1/3rd more strategic forces by 1985. We would have no choice but to keep pace with that. And the Secretary of Defense has estimated that this could cost